

The Nashville Globe.

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TO THE PUBLIC.

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the columns of THE NASHVILLE GLOBE will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the management.

Send correspondence for publication so as to reach this office Monday. No matter intended for current issue which arrives as late as Thursday can appear in that number, as Thursday is press day.

All news matter sent us for publication must be written only on one side of the paper, and should be accompanied by the name of the contributor; not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

WATCH THE COURSE OF THE STRAWS.

The marchants of Nashville as a whole are wide-awake and progressive; this is a fact that is self-evident, and it seems from the many improvements they are making in the way of securing larger and better quarters both by lease and purchase, and the erecting of new buildings and remodeling structures already massive in architecture, that a wave of prosperity is floating in their paths. Every citizen of Nashville is proud of the city's progress and, we believe, rejoice at the erecting of every new building and at every improvement tending to beautify their home abode, and this is especially true of the Negroes. They like to spend their money with the concerns that show the greatest signs of prosperity, and since this is true, we are led to wonder if he acts wisely in so doing. Does the merchant with the big store want his patronage? We know some do not, but we believe there are others who do. We take the liberty to mention the firms of Hirshberg Bros. and the Timothy Dry Goods Company on Third avenue, North, and heartily commend them to our readers, but as for the rest we are in serious doubt. For it seems to us that if they desire our patronage they would find time to give audience to our advertising agent sometimes, and would not always greet him with the gruff reply, "Too busy to talk to you to-day." We judge by this treatment that they have all the business they want or are only desirous of the patronage of white people. Negroes would act wisely to consider this point, and particular attention to the treatment they receive on entering stores. If the merchant wants your trade he will treat you with politeness, and will train his clerks to do the same. We take special pride in vouching for those whose advertisements appear in these columns, and as for those that do not we merely ask you to watch the course of the straws.

THE OKLAHOMA CONSTITUTION.

Oklahoma, which will be admitted to the sisterhood of states this year, providing a constitution is adopted that meets the approval of President Roosevelt, is holding a constitutional convention. The democrats, who are in control of the convention, are finding it rather hard to draw up an instrument that will please the southern and the radical factions of that party, and yet be acceptable to the President. If Mr. Roosevelt vetoes the constitution, as we have stated above, the admission of the territory will be postponed.

The President with characteristic directness sent word last week through the territorial representative in Congress, that if the constitution was adopted with a provision to prevent railroads from protecting their property during labor troubles, he would veto the whole instrument. This, it is said, is the second time that Mr. Roosevelt has issued an ultimatum to the convention. The first objection was to a proposition to disfranchise Negroes and establish "jim crow" cars.

From the reports sent out recently it appears that the opposition to the Negro has taken fresh courage since the Brownsville affair has been given so much prominence and now several other propositions, aimed at persons "of African descent" have been introduced and the "jim crow car" plank revived. The conservative democrats, influenced by advice from the party leaders in Washington, are trying to steer clear of the subject, but whether they will succeed is not apparent. The outcome of the convention's deliberations will be watched with interest, for if the constitution is made so as to limit the rights of the citizens of color it will be up to Mr. Roosevelt to discharge the instrument at once and without honor.

OVERSTEPPING AUTHORITY.

If we are to take utterances and acts as an index of what constitutes the disposition or inclination of a person or a nation, then the decision often given the Negro, if given at the hand of a white man, can readily come either before the fact or after the fact, without investigation. This is a consideration that has long been endured in the Southland, and which finally wended its way to the executive chair of the nation, and is now taken up with impunity by the host of officials acting in their various capacities. While there may have been other points that have not been given out that were beneath the surface in the Swettenham-Davis Jamaica affair that warranted the kicking out of Admiral Davis, the disposition shown by him to take absolute control of the island while yet on his way, and the statement made by him that he was hurrying to the scene for fear the Negroes would take advantage of the opportunity and loot the island, was sufficient alone to warrant Swettenham's action. Thinking that Negroes everywhere are treated alike, Rear Admiral Davis thought he would be free to sail over and kick and cuff a few while the Negro-hating element at home would cheer him and nominate him candidate for the presidency.

Admiral Davis forgot or didn't know that the population of the island is overwhelmingly a Negro one and that there are over 488,000 of them to 15,000 Caucasians and if the Negroes were so disposed they could loot the island whenever they desired to do so. Instead of Swettenham being compelled to resign, Admiral Davis ought to have been reprimanded for the officiousness which provoked the treatment which he received.

BREAKING THE JIM CROW LAW.

We have noticed that there is a disposition on the part of some of the white people to disregard the separate street car law which was enacted by the state legislature and known as the "Jim Crow Street Car Law." The object of this law, as we understand it, is to separate the colored and white passengers on all street cars operated in the state. The law went into effect on July 5, 1905, and with but few exceptions there has been a general acceptance of the law by Negroes. We have noticed that white people are not law-abiding in this direction. The text of the law reads about as follows: "White passengers boarding the car are to seat from the front to the rear. Colored passengers boarding the car will seat from the rear to the front." This appears, and would be interpreted, that a white passenger boarding a street car should take the seat farthest front, the next passenger the next seat, and so on, each seat, being filled toward the rear; the colored passengers vice versa. The colored passengers always obey this

law, but white passengers boarding street cars sit anywhere except where they belong. We have noticed cars coming in with not more than a dozen white passengers, one on each seat, while fifteen or twenty colored passengers would be crowded in the back of the car, some of them occupying the two lengthwise seats, with plenty of empty seats in the front of the car. Some of the conductors have attempted to carry out the law. They have on several occasions ordered white passengers to the front, but as a general rule no attention is paid to the transgressors of the law if they perchance belong to the white race. The attention of the officials of the state, as well as of the street car company, is hereby called to these conditions. We hope they will be remedied ere the summer returns. Some of our people are forced to ride on the cars: their work demands it, and in order to give their time to their employers they must report on time, which cannot be done when they live great distances, unless they use the cars.

There are hundreds of Negroes in Nashville who have never "bowed their knees to Baal" (the Jim Crow Law), but these cannot be classed as law-breakers. They would, we believe, carry out the law to the letter if they were forced to ride on the cars. The enforcing of legislative acts, so far as concerns our people, appears very rigid; but on the other hand the only violations noted are when something extremely sensational occurs, as was the case when a white man in a buggy with seeming deliberation ran down an aged colored woman on Third avenue, North, some time ago.

DOUGHT TO SEE THE NASHVILLE BRAND.

Some one has said that Springfield has more pretty girls than any other city in the Union. The other fellow declares that this some one is blind. What sayest thou?—*Springfield (Ill.) Forum.*

Now, if the Globe wants to show up the "Nashville Brand" and the Springfield Forum would like to show up Springfield's prettiest, why, just run their cuts in your paper, and after we have looked them over, we will show you something from "Old Virginny" that is fit to keep company with angels.

Now, don't back down; come right up and let the world see what you call pretty.—*St. Luke's Herald.*

We are surprised that our brilliant, usually well informed contemporary should want us to enter the "Nashville Brand" of pretty girls in a beauty contest against Springfield and "Old Virginny." Fit company for angels! Why, the Nashville Brand is the nearest approach to angels that inhabit this mundane sphere—in our opinion! The Globe is not backing down. We are willing to enter a beauty contest, but Old Virginny and Springfield must first prove that they are in our class. As the prize-fighters say, "Go get a rep, then come for a fight."

The Temperance people of this state seem to have old John Barleycorn on the run. The Senate by an overwhelming majority passed the Pendleton bill this week, which makes the Adams Law apply to the whole state. The measure now goes to the House of Representatives, and if it is passed by that body it will be up to Governor Patterson to sign or veto. The bill will doubtless meet with a determined fight in the House from both the whiskey interests and the temperate anti-whiskey men. It is the consensus of opinion, though, that even if the bill passes it will not apply to Nashville.

A report of a speech made by President Roosevelt last Saturday night before The Gridiron Club, an organization of Washington newspaper correspondents, in which it was alleged that he said, "All coons look alike to me," has brought forth some more explanations. Roosevelt probably thought he was speaking before the Pickwick Club.

The government has been hoisted on its own petard. The railroads of

the West refused to make a special rate for the soldiers who are to be transferred to the Philippine Islands.

The criminal Negro stands a very poor chance to get a long write up while the Thaw and Feist murder trials are in progress.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS FROM THE COLORED PRESS.

Political Recognition.

The Democracy of St. Paul, with a Negro population in the city of 2,500 and 10,000 in the State, gives to the race six Negroes in the Fire Department, one deputy sheriff, three Negro policemen, confidential messenger to the Governor, one State messenger and six Negroes filling clerical places under the Democratic Governor. The Republicans filling office in the county are one deputy clerk in County Auditor's office and two bailiffs.

Kansas City, Mo., recognizes her colored citizens. A clerk of the Police Court, filled by Mr. Nelson C. Crews, \$2,800 per year; assistant clerk, Mr. Elmer Jackson; a colored Fire Department, four colored police, 75 colored school teachers, the janitor of City Hall and five assistants, 14 mail carriers, five clerks in post office, four colored street foremen, with 12 to 14 men in each gang. The majority of the street car track layers are colored men, messengers in the banks, janitors in all large buildings, about 50 Negro chauffeurs, at least 500 colored coachmen. Every leading hotel, both dining, kitchen and bell stand, employ colored men. The stewards of all leading clubs, Kansas City, The Elk, the Eagles and others employ colored men.

Minneapolis, Minn., employs three colored men in the post office, two mail clerks, a former member in the Assembly, four colored police, two colored detectives, colored Fire Department. Colored women and men can be seen clerking in department stores, etc. Two colored teachers. The colored population of Minneapolis is about 500.—*The Buffalo (N. Y.) Gazetteer and Guide.*

The Jamaica Catastrophe—Gov. Swettenham's Act.

The earthquake at Jamaica was sad indeed. It was shocking in the extreme. We presume the great majority of those killed were colored Jamaicans. Their brethren in this country certainly have our sympathy. The Colored West Indians are already raising money to send for relief. A West India cricket team held an entertainment last night at Cambridge part of the proceeds of which are to go for that purpose. Rev. M. A. N. Shaw, pastor of the new Twelfth Baptist Church, took a collection at his church last Sunday night for the same end. Rev. Shaw is a native of Jamaica. The West Indian Benevolent Association has an appeal in these columns which we publish to help the cause. We trust the suffering ones may be speedily relieved.

Queerly enough, a sensational international incident has attracted the attention of the world in connection with the rendering of aid by this country. We mean the orders of Governor Swettenham to Admiral Davis to quit the island with his troops. In spite of the great outcry against this action in this country and supposedly in England and in Jamaica, we cannot help admiring the Jamaican governor for courage and sagacity and we feel it is a wholesome lesson to our own country. Under the "Big Stick" policy of President Theodore Roosevelt our country is presuming too far with the landing of soldiers in foreign territory.—*The Boston Guardian.*

Negro Mail Order House.

Chicago has the only incorporated Negro mail order mercantile company in the country, the J. H. Zedrichs & Co. business.—*The Wisconsin Defender.*

Tillman Gets Right.

After all of his constitutional meanness, his unreasonable prejudice and his vicious antagonism, Senator Tillman of South Carolina, who is the most powerful enemy the Negro has, is the only one of the Southern statesmen that reached the real inwardness of the Brownsville affair. There has been a steady stream of senatorial verbosity coming out of this controversy, the Southern senators reviewing at length the various phases of the geographical bugbear, "Negro domination," but Tillman, who admits with ghoulish delight his hatred to the Negro, destroyed the perplexity of the immediate problem by this simple declaration:

"I have no love for the Negro. This is a fact that every one knows. I believe that the advancement of the Negro is a growing menace to white supremacy; but my dislike for him is not of such a nature as to direct me to withhold from him an act of simple justice. I could never have

done to any American soldier, black or white, what the President has done to these three companies. It is a serious matter for the United States through its executive, to that at least one hundred men, dieters of our army, must be deprived of their character and honorableness. Nothing so debases a man in the eyes of his countrymen as a dishonorable discharge from the military service of his country."

Tillman evidently has a deep-seated feeling of repugnance against the Negro which is cordially returned by every Negro who ever heard the name of the blatant Senator from South Carolina, but the simple truth should be recognized whenever it appears, and it does seem that it came from Tillman upon this occasion. The contention of the Negroes in the Brownsville episode is not for the silly rot of social equality or racial denunciation, but a prayer for justice to certain members of their race, valiant and patriotic members of their race, many of whom have fought the nation's battles for many years. nation's battles for many years.—*Hopkinsville Morning News.*

"The Negro's Handicap."

The editorial which appears under this caption in Collier's last week must be pleasant news to those of our contemporaries who accepted as a fact the reports, coming via Atlanta, that the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and Collier's had instructed their agents to have no further business relations with Negroes. Collier's says:

"Discriminating against the Negro seems to be a game at which others besides Tillman and Vardaman and the 'Jim Crow' railroads can play. The Metropolitan Life Insurance company, a worthy rival to Senator Dryden's philanthropic organization in Newark for providing a poor widow with the means to bury her husband, issued an order to its agents to accept no Negro risks after the first of the year. Too many die to make the business profitable. At the same time, Mr. Jim Jeffries, champion, announces that he will never meet Mr. Jack Johnson, a husky colored gentleman who yearns to wear the title, in the prize ring. Mr. Jeffries says tersely that he will defend his honors against any white man for a purse of \$50,000. He doesn't fear Mr. Johnson—not at all—only 'no gentleman would fight a nigger.' Students of history however, are recalling that only eight years ago, a year before he became champion by beating Mr. Bob Fitzsimmons, the Odysseus of the squared circle, Mr. Jeffries fought Mr. Bob Armstrong a colored pugilist. The champion is finicky. Our sympathy goes out to Mr. Jack Johnson. If we recall correctly the testimony brought out when President Hegeman's company was under the Insurance Committee's probe, the prospective colored policy-holder in the Metropolitan lost less by his exclusion than Mr. Johnson is deprived of. Even Collier's has been accused of hypocritical discrimination, by no less an authority than the newspaper which is known to fame as the inciter of the Atlanta riots. The News in this instance has the excuse that one of our branch managers issued instructions to his agents in language that was capable of misinterpretation. Our salesmen are told to treat Negroes as they treat every kind of being—on business principles solely. Anybody can get the inestimable benefit of reading this paper by paying cash. Credit is a question solely of experience and of fact—whether the subscribers are likely to deserve credit. This over-expressive agent of ours has been told that credit is to be given to colored ministers, teachers, professional men, and others whom experience shows to be safe risks, so to speak. For the less responsible there is always the resource of cash and the race in its struggles (pace the Atlanta News) is not to be deprived of the vast help of reading this illuminating sheet."

Another New York weekly, equally as reliable and as widely circulated as the paper from which this rather lengthy clipping is made, said editorially last week that the Metropolitan, too, had been maligning; that no instructions to agents to discontinue insuring Negroes, as was reported by the Associated Press, had been issued. That it was simply another case of "misinterpretation," this time of comments upon mortality statistics appearing in the company's annual report.

With this rift in the cloud which, at first sight, seems to grow larger and darker, we gird up our loins and tackle again with renewed strength the ever-present problem, praying, hoping and working for its final solution.—*The (Charleston, W. Va.) Advocate.*

Colored Soldiers Given Certificates of Merit.

General Oliver, assistant secretary of war, has awarded certificates of merit to the following named enlisted men of the United States Army: Sergeant Jno. W. Ash and Corporal Preston Askew, both of Company E, 24th